

scrolling operation upon detecting the sliding touch of the object along the ring-shaped touch area.

9. A unitary depressible input platform for a portable electronic device, the input platform comprising:

- a non-rotatable capacitive ring-shaped touch surface configured for generating a first input signal when a sliding touch is detected at the ring-shaped touch surface; and
- a central input surface located at a center of the ring-shaped touch surface and configured for generating a second input signal when pressure is detected at the central input surface;

wherein the input platform is accessible through an opening in a housing of the portable electronic device; and

wherein the input platform is further configured for translating in a z-direction with respect to the housing when pressure in the z-direction is applied to the input platform.

10. The input platform of claim **9**, the capacitive ring-shaped touch surface further configured with a plurality of zones, each zone for generating a different first input signal when touched.

11. The input platform of claim **9**, the capacitive ring-shaped touch surface further configured for generating a third input signal when tapped.

12. The input platform of claim **9**, further comprising one or more switches configured for activating when the pressure in the z-direction is applied to the input platform.

13. The input platform of claim **9**, the capacitive ring-shaped touch surface including a touch sensing electrode layer.

14. The input platform of claim **9**, further comprising first tabs configured for preventing rotation of the input platform.

15. The input platform of claim **9**, further comprising a processor communicatively coupled to the ring-shaped touch surface and programmed for executing a zooming operation upon detecting the sliding touch of the object along the ring-shaped touch surface.

16. The input platform of claim **9**, further comprising a processor communicatively coupled to the ring-shaped touch surface and programmed for executing a scrolling operation upon detecting the sliding touch of the object along the ring-shaped touch surface.

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